

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 5th October 1901.

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CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

NATIVE OWNED ENTERPRISES IN THE
UNITED STATES

Week ending March 31, 1901

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

2443. The *Bengalee* holds that the action of the President of the Permanent Council of the Hague Court of Arbitration, in proposing the introduction of the Boer appeal for arbitration, will doubtless tend to inspire new hope in the hearts of the Boer leaders, while the recent demonstration of cordiality between Russia and France and the death of President McKinley, owing to whose strong personality the United States has remained neutral in reference to the Boer war, are other disturbing factors in the political situation.

BENGALÉE,
26th Sept. 1901.

2444. While, says the *Indian Mirror*, the contest between Britain and Boer Afghanistan, Russia and England. is likely to last sometime longer, the clouds are thickening more and more on the Imperial horizon, and Russia is making belligerent preparations both in Europe and Asia. The report that she has her troops in constant readiness for a march upon Herat, and other sudden exploits over the Afghan border in case of "certain eventualities," makes the *Mirror* more inquisitive than ever as to the present state of affairs in Afghanistan; and it thinks that the Indian Government should ascertain definitely whether there is any truth in the statement recently circulated in some European papers that the relations between Russia and Afghanistan have become more friendly than ever. It warns the Government of Russia's policy of insidious aggressiveness, while Afghan treachery has become a byword of history, and it seems to see clearly that the eventualities referred to are the death of Abdur Rahman and the consequences which are likely to follow. It seems to be the intention of Russia to pursue her cherished project of seizing Afghanistan, the moment the powerful hand of Abdur Rahman is removed from that country, and it strongly impresses upon England the importance of terminating the war in South Africa and of being prepared to defend her vast possessions in Asia.

INDIAN MIRROR,
26th Sept. 1901.

2445. In the course of a lengthy article on the present European situation, the *Bengalee* comments on the interminableness of the Boer war, its appallingly enormous cost, and the intention of the Peace Conference to consider the question of arbitration in respect of that war. There was a time, it says, when the same Conference had refused to interfere in the matter. What then is the new factor which has since come into existence to make the Conference change its mind?—The French delegate to the Conference has had a long interview with the Czar, and it is surmised in political circles that this interview related to the Boer war.

BENGALÉE,
27th Sept. 1901.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

2446. The *East* understands that no senior officer being available to relieve Mr. Harward, District and Sessions Judge of Dacca, he is not likely to be relieved till the *puja* holidays. As a solution of the difficulty the *East* suggests the deputation of the Additional Judge to dispose of sessions cases and criminal appeals till the *puja* vacation.

EAST,
21st Sept. 1901.

2447. The following appears in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—

The termination of the Jalpaiguri case.

If anybody has a right to regret the abrupt termination of the Jalpaiguri case, it is Mr. Lane, the Subdivisional Officer, who committed the accused to the Sessions. The complainant was asked whether or not the committing officer was helping him, and Mr. Judge Richardson declared that it was not necessary to pursue that point. So you see Mr. Lane was placed in an unfortunate position by the sudden termination of the case. In this case great preparations had been made to implicate a leading Indian. The accused attempted to shew that the committing officer was not in a judicial state of mind when the Judge put a stop to the progress of the case and asked the Crown Counsel to withdraw the charges. Thus the public is left in the dark as to the origin of this case and the procedure adopted by those who sought to implicate an innocent man. We hope the matter will not end here, and the Government will be pleased to look carefully into the whole case from beginning to end.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
24th Sept. 1901.

BENGALIEE,
25th Sept. 1901.

2448. The *Bengalee* publishes a letter from Lord Stanley of Alderley on the appointment of assessors to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and agrees with His Lordship in thinking that the decisions of that Committee have, of recent years, failed to give satisfaction, and that therefore a reorganisation of the Committee on the lines suggested by His Lordship is not only necessary, but feasible and the least expensive.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
25th Sept. 1901.

2449. In no case in Europe has the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* found Judges send innocent persons to the gallows or to transportation for life in such a light-hearted manner as Indian Judges are wont to do. These remarks are called forth by the recent case in Trichinopoly, where the District Judge sentenced a wealthy Mirasidar to death and two other men to transportation, a sentence which was set aside on appeal to the Madras High Court.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
27th Sept. 1901.

2450. In the course of an article on the infliction of a sentence of 15 stripes on a respectable Hindu boy convicted of theft by the City Magistrate of Patna, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* expresses the opinion that, on principle, all cases in which people belonging to the *bhadraloke* class are sentenced to a whipping, should be carried to the High Court, with the object of having some check exercised upon those Magistrates who are inclined to resort to this form of punishment.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
28th Sept. 1901.

2451. Reverting to this subject, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* makes out that the City Magistrate of Patna was actuated by no motives of economy when he ordered the infliction of the 15 stripes. He betrayed a passion for the punishment which leads the *Patrika* to ask: Is there any pleasure in the sufferings of a fellow-creature? The infliction of such cruel punishments which are neither Christian nor civilized in character, is gradually killing all the fine sentiments with which our Magistrates have been endowed by Heaven, and it is both in their interests and the people that this sort of punishment should never be resorted to, especially when young men belonging to the *bhadra loke* class are involved.

BENGALIEE,
27th Sept. 1901.

2452. The *Bengalee* cites the opinion of Sir Raymond West, one of the ablest Judges of Sind, with regard to the difficulties that beset the single Judge of the Sind Sadar Court, and wonders the Government could be so blind to the evil effects of the system in the face of such an authoritative opinion, expressed 28 years ago. It trusts that the Government will early step in and remove a real grievance of the Sind people, who believe that however competent the single Judge of the Sadar Court might be, he cannot be infallible.

BENGALIEE,
28th Sept. 1901.

2453. The *Bengalee's* Monghyr correspondent writes to say that, since May last, people who have their criminal cases before Mr. W. H. Vincent, the local Sessions Judge, are being greatly inconvenienced, owing to the Judge's objection to permitting mukhtears to appear in his Court. He appeals to the Honourable Judges of the High Court, to expound the law and clear up the ambiguity for the sake of the public.

BENGALIEE,
29th Sept. 1901.

2454. The *Bengalee*, in an article extending to two columns, attempts an explanation of the increase in the criminal work of the High Court. It does not, upon examination, find the cause, as many do, in the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, which is said to practically allow *two* appeals in most criminal cases, for the reason that, as a matter of fact, two appeals are *not* allowed. It next examines the innate perversity of the Indian nature and the influence of original sin, and is satisfied that these two causes, however much they might simplify almost all problems which would otherwise be difficult of solution, are not responsible for the increase in question. The reason is to be found in the deterioration of the Criminal Courts in the mufassal, in whom the people have ceased to have much confidence. This is accounted for in various ways, in the propensity for convicting which characterises the ranks of Deputy Magistrates, Magistrates and Sessions Judges and which, notwithstanding the assurance of the Government to the contrary, secures for them the reputation of being energetic and zealous and is the only sure road to rapid proportion.

Added to this state of things is the fact that the Magistrate's duties are too multifarious to permit of his discharging his judicial duties in a conscientious manner, and when he finds that a perfunctory performance of them does not stand in the way of his promotion, he very often neglects them. Moreover his knowledge of law is very superficial. The result therefore is that, in a great majority of criminal cases, justice is not done, and if in these circumstances the right of approaching the High Court is denied, it would only mean the perpetuation of injustice and oppression.

(d)—Education.

2455. The *Behar News* learns with satisfaction from its Chapra correspondent, that the Chapra Institution and the Chapra Collegiate School were amalgamated in June last.

BEHAR NEWS,
21st Sept. 1901.

There are, in his opinion, far too many schools in the town, and he would be pleased to see some further amalgamations.

2456. The same paper reverts to the subject of the importance of moral and religious education being imparted to Indian boys, and notices, with gratification, Lord Curzon's

BEHAR NEWS,
21st Sept. 1901.

important speech at the recent Educational Conference. It quotes passages from the Convocation speech of Lord Ripon in 1882 to show, however, that Lord Curzon was not the first to refer to this vital question, and it cites at length an article in favour of its views which appeared in the *Indian Mirror*.

2457. On the subject of the deliberations and intentions of the Educational Conference, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* offers a suggestion, advocated by some Indian Education-

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st Sept. 1901.

alists, to try the experiment of making the vernaculars the medium of imparting knowledge in the case at least of the University Entrance Examination, and hopes "that Lord Curzon will consider it and come forward to save the intellectual class of the Indians from a system of education which is gradually causing its extinction. Reform is urgently needed not only in this direction, but also in reducing and regulating the number of text-books, and in mitigating the murderous character of the examinations, which numberless as they are at present, are increasing still year by year, decimating our hopefuls with much greater havoc than cholera and malaria put together."

2458. The *Behar Herald* does not believe that anything that the University can do will encourage vernacular literature.

BEHAR HERALD,
25th Sept. 1901.

Our University and the decadence of vernaculars.

A taste for it must be created in the people who themselves will not take to reading. It holds that the knowledge of the arts, science, philosophy and literature of Europe which the Universities are pledged to diffuse, can be best done through the medium of English. "In modern times," it proceeds to add, "our vernaculars are not fitted to be the vehicles of a liberal education. For range of subjects, for fighting the battle of life, our vernaculars cannot compete with English. English education has been the inspiring influence in our society for half a century. Let us not put back the hour-hand and revert to the old system. Let us not neglect the life-giving and invigorating literature of the west for the sake of a so-called patriotic notion."

2459. The *Indian Mirror* is concerned to hear that it is in contemplation to import a European lady from England to fill the Principalship of the Bethune College in supersession of the claims of two Indian ladies, Misses Hemprova Bose, M.A., and Surobala Ghose, B.A., who have already got some eight years' service to their credit. Government, it remarks, would not be well advised to adopt this costly course, when two such deserving candidates are to be found on the spot.

INDIAN MIRROR,
28th Sept. 1901.

The Lady Superintendship of the Bethune College.

(e)—Municipal administration and Local Self-Government.

2460. The acquittal by the Sealdah Magistrate of the Municipal officers

BENGALIEE,
26th Sept. 1901.

The Beriapukur Municipal case.

who were charged in what is known as the Beniapukur Municipal case, under section 352, Indian Penal Code, has, in the opinion of the *Bengalee*, been a serious

miscarriage of justice; and the Magistrate's judgment will, if anything, encourage Municipal underlings in terrorising over helpless rate payers who have now been left completely at their mercy.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
21st Sept. 1901.

2461. In its second paper on this subject, the *Moslem Chronicle* welcomes the suggestion of the Famine Commission that in the administration of famine relief, local men should be employed in future, and offers the following plan for the recruitment of such a Committee:—

Have a plebiscite made of the different sects, guilds or interests constituting a village population. This may be presided over or watched by the Subdivisional Officer, a Sub-Deputy Magistrate or by any officer not inferior to the rank of an Inspector. Each of these may elect their own *marals*, *mutubbars*, *sirdars*, *mandals*, and *prodhans* to form a working Committee of their own, and they can also elect one of their number to act as the chief or president over the Committee for supervision and advice. To the Committee so formed may be added at least four, two Hindus and two Muhammadans, who must belong to the priestly class and whose influence over the people is generally not questioned. The association of *gurus* or the *purahits* and the *maulvis* or *mollahs* of the village—spiritual guides of people—is sure to make for that influence and that prestige which would be the best possible guarantee for honesty and fairness.

It next expresses its approval of the suggested *takavi* advances being given with promptness, but is decidedly averse to any reduction in the wages allowed now to famine labourers.

BENGALÉE,
30th Sept. 1901.

2462. Referring to the statement in the report of the Famine Commission of 1901, that the wage scale adopted by the Commission of 1898 was considerably higher than

Ibid. the one it displaced, and that it was found necessary in the recent famine to lower the wages, after which they were still found to be excessive, the *Bengalée* does not see any reason to warrant this conclusion. If there has been an increase in the cost of meeting the recent famine, far in excess of any previous visitation, the real causes for the abnormal expenditure are to be sought, not in the "excessive" wage scale, but in other and more powerful causes, the principal of which are—*a*) the extent and intensity of the famine, (*b*) the state of unpreparedness and want of prompt relief, tending to ultimate increased expenditure, (*c*) lack of control over subordinates, and (*d*) the currency policy of Government.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
26th Sept. 1901.

2463. In a very appreciative article the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* explains at length the system of organising and working village banks recommended in Mr. H. Dupernex's book on the subject. It seems glad that the author is in service, and will be able to call in the leading people in his district and personally explain his views to them. It also suggests that Provincial Conferences and the Agent appointed in Midnapore should take up the suggestions and give effect to them.

INDIAN MIRROR,
28th Sept. 1901.

2464. The *Indian Mirror* holds that, unless great facilities are afforded by agricultural banks in making advances to cultivators, they are not likely to answer the purposes for which they are intended. It hopes, therefore, that the greatest care will be taken in carrying out the scheme and making rules in connection with it.

(h)—General.

INDIAN NATION,
23rd Sept. 1901.

2465. The *Indian Nation* cannot congratulate the Governments of Bengal and India on their performance with regard to Mr. Pennell, against whom they have failed to make out a case for dismissal. Vanity, bad taste, readiness to impute motives, introduction of irrelevancies into judgments are not, in the opinion of the writer, grounds for dismissal. That extreme measure is reserved for gross incompetence and dishonesty in the discharge of official functions, neither of which charges can be laid at Mr. Pennell's door.

The *Nation* hopes Lord George Hamilton will view Mr. Pennell not merely as an accused, but also as a complainant. All the charges brought against him are as nothing compared to the very serious exposures he has made of the sins of the police, of a section of the executive, of the petty personal considerations, the wheels within wheels which tend to affect the administration of justice.

The article concludes thus:—"After all, it is of little moment to the world or to Mr. Pennell himself, whether he is degraded, dismissed, or reinstated. Even if dismissed, he would go out into the world with no stigma on his character, and would appear, at the worst, as a cross-grained, vehement, rebellious spirit, no more suited to service than Voltaire or Walter Savage Landor would have been. The highest intellects and best natures cannot always feel comfortable in an atmosphere of conventionalities, especially where it smells of unrighteousness."

2466. With reference to the *Pioneers'* remark that the Government treated Mr. Pennell with special kindness after his misconduct in Burma, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
24th Sept. 1901.

Mr. Pennell's case. contends that, if Mr. Pennell was let off with only a transfer, it was not due to any special clemency, but to the tradition which the Government generally followed, viz., that a civilian can do no wrong when a native is concerned.

It thereupon devotes over two columns to the correspondence in the case of Mr. Radice when he was Settlement Officer, Balasore, to show how that officer fared at the hands of Sir Antony MacDonnell, but remarks that when Sir Charles Elliott returned from leave he condoned Mr Radice's offence as far as that was possible.

2467. Referring to the *Pioneer's* call on the supporters of Mr. Pennell to explain away the incident relating to the thrashing of a Thugyi by that gentleman in Burma, the

INDIAN EMPIRE,
24th Sept. 1901.

Ibid. *Indian Empire* remarks that apparently the assault was not considered of any moment at the time, as the Government elevated Mr. Pennell to a Judgeship after it occurred. It is now only that the incident has been vested with unusual importance, because of Mr. Pennell's audacity in criticising the conduct of the highest officials in the land.

Officials are known to have done even greater wrong than did Mr. Pennell in Burma. One official, who is now at the Bengal Secretariat, at one time of his career, while at Meherpur, got about 100 fishermen mercilessly flogged in front of his bungalow.

A merciless horse-whipping of a native may be condoned, as it was, and is and will be condoned, but any undignified reference to a high official will never be tolerated. That is all, says the writer.

2468. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* pleads on behalf of Mr. Pennell, that, as he is the first official to be made an example of for an offence which had hitherto been treated as

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
27th Sept. 1901.

Ibid. almost no offence at all, he should be treated with leniency. He did not know that maltreating a native was an offence in India. Mr. Sibbold, who caused the death of an old man, was fined, imprisoned and restored to his appointment, and when Mr. Pennell's Burma offence is compared with the offence of the Chapra officials in constable Nursingh Singh's case, whose, asks the writer, was the greater? Therefore, he hopes and prays that Mr. Pennell may be dealt with with some consideration.

2469. In the course of a thoughtful and lengthy article, the *Indian Nation* commends, for the consideration of Lord Curzon, "Our next hope from the Viceroy." the desirability of improving and enlarging the prospects of the educated middle classes, the men who stand between Princes and Chiefs on the one hand (for whom a cadet corps has been organised), and the millions (for whose relief in times of famine a Famine Commission has offered suggestions) on the other. To attain the desired end, the writer recommends the complete reconstitution of the Civil Service of India—primarily the abolition, of the system of competitive examination, through the door of which alone the highest offices in the State are reached. Would it, he asks, be in accordance with the fitness of things, if Mr. Benjamin Disraeli failing at the age of 23 to beat his competitors at an examination, was therefore shut out from all the higher offices of the State? Examinations can

INDIAN NATION,
23rd Sept. 1901.

only find out clever boys, not men fitted to rule. Thus it is explained that British India has offered no field to native statesmanship, because the Civil Service has been the standing obstacle. It is therefore contended that, for the reform of the Civil Service, there should be a redistribution of appointments; that the Civil Service should be continuous with other and cognate branches of the public service, and that allowing for the competitive test to remain in force for admission to the inferior offices, the Viceroy and Local Governors should have power to appoint experienced and capable men at once to the high offices for which they might be fitted. Without some such method, the Civil Service will not draw to itself the best men of the country; will not, therefore, gratify legitimate aspirations and afford scope to indigenous talent. Turning to the Native States the writer finds that here alone, without the necessity of passing examinations, have India's only statesmen been reared and elevated, finding a scope for their abilities which they could not have found in British India. Let there be some way open to Dinkur Raos and Madhava Raos. Let *Sub-Judges* and *Deputies* be not the highest of native administrators.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
26th Sept. 1901.

2470. The Bankipore special correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is grieved to learn that Lord Curzon has refused to interfere in the matter of Bissu Mull, and complains that an enquiry in the absence of the accused can never be called 'independent.' He is surprised that Mr. Ryland, who held the independent enquiry, maintained that Bissu Mull's guilt did not justify the drastic order passed, a warning being in his opinion sufficient.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
26th Sept. 1901.

2471. The following is taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* :—

Babu Rasick Chandra Roy,
Deputy Magistrate of Dinajpur.

Our Dinajpur correspondent writes: Some sensation has been created at Dinajpur owing to a proceeding on the part of Babu Bepin Chandra, Deputy Magistrate. He has charged Babu Rasick Chandra Roy, a leading mukhtear of the Sadar, with unprofessional conduct and has served him with a notice to answer the charge. Babu Bepin Chandra has scarcely been a month or two in Dinajpur and within this time he has made himself too hot by some of his extraordinary procedures.

BENGALIEE,
26th Sept. 1901.

2472. Reverting to this subject, the *Bengalee* reproduces the grounds on which were based the recommendations of the Salaries Commission of 1887 to increase the emoluments of ministerial officers in Civil Courts, as well as the Lieutenant-Governor's refusal to comply with those recommendations. With reference to the assertion "that so long as the salaries offered suffice to secure the services, of competent men and do not fall conspicuously below the emoluments which similarly qualified men can secure elsewhere, the presumption must be that the present scale of pay is sufficiently high," the writer asks why pay the amlas at all? They as well as the peons may be appointed on no pay at all, since it is not the pay alone that tempts men to these low-paid posts in Munsif's Courts. Besides the pay, there is a regular source of income which is known to everybody. The Government winks at the evil practice, but never tries to stop it.

The article concludes with the suggestion that now that the Government coffer is overflowing with money, the recommendation of the Salaries Commission be adopted, and the blot that exists in the administration of the country removed.

BENGALIEE,
28th Sept. 1901.

2473. The *Bengalee* returns to this subject, and cites the opinion of the Toynbee Commission in support of its agitation to raise the salaries of ministerial officers in Civil Courts, urging that the law of supply and demand can never be applicable in the case of Government employments which carry salaries according to the responsible nature of the duties that the incumbents of the posts have to discharge. It earnestly appeals to Lord Curzon to make a sifting enquiry into the working of the ministerial establishments in mufassal Civil Courts and remedy the defects that may be found in them.

BENGALIEE,
28th Sept. 1901.

2474. The *Bengalee* hears that in August last, when the extra copyists employed in the office of the Registrar of Calcutta, applied for their salaries, which had fallen due since May 1901, they were told by the Registrar

Extra copyists in the office of
the Registrar of Calcutta.

to stop work until they were paid. Acting upon this advice, the men stopped work, but on going to office some days later for their pay for May and June, they learnt to their amazement that the Registrar has ordered their dismissal on the alleged ground of absence without notice. This is characterised by the *Bengalee* as melancholy meanness, and it hopes that Mr. B. L. Chandra, for whose sense of justice it has the highest respect, will see his way to revise his order and do the poor copyists justice which seems to have been denied them.

2475. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* relates a case in which a party of plague officials in Bangalore came upon a man asleep in

Plague administration.

a lane at a late hour in the morning, and finding his eyes red, pulse weak and temperature above normal, decided that it was a case of plague and were marching the man off. Realising his position, the man now fully awake, protested he was all right and accounted satisfactorily for his condition. He was accordingly let off.

This, says the *Patrika*, is the sort of plague administration that obtains not only in Bangalore, but also in every affected town or city in India, and in spite of the literature on the subject, the knowledge about the cause, symptoms and the means of grappling successfully with the disease remains as imperfect as ever.

2476. After quoting certain English newspapers which contrast Russia's policy of granting commissions in her army to the

The King's army and the Indians.

fighting races she conquers, with England's want of confidence in the loyalty of her subject-races, among whom many an Indian nobleman has rendered great services in opposing England's foes, the *Indian Mirror* bemoans the irony of fate which does not allow the people of India as yet to hold commissions in the King's army. It is grateful, however, for the proposed formation of the Imperial Cadet Corps which it hopes will soon be formed, in which Indian noblemen will in time assuredly lead armies in the field and cover themselves with military honours. It nevertheless recommends England taking a leaf out of Russia's book and opening a career in the army for the scions of Indian nobility and for all Indians of approved loyalty.

It then agitates for the removal of the brand of degradation from which Indians have so long suffered in their exclusion from Volunteer Corps and in the operation of the Arms Act.

2477. The *Bengalee* complains that Major Raymond, the Principal of the Bengal Veterinary College, uses unkind words to

The Bengal Veterinary College.

his pupils, imposes heavy fines, compulsory labour and long hours of work, and curtails their holidays. It charges the Principal with combining the school-master and the jail-warder, of being a martinet, and reminds him that "he is an ideal leader who binds his pupils in the ever-lasting ties of affection and veneration." It trusts that Government will terminate the "serious grievances and galling humiliations of the poor students of the Belgachia Veterinary College."

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

2478. The following paragraph appears in the *Bengalee*:—

Affairs in Cochin.

Cochin may be all that the Resident depicts it to be; but is it a fact that a European, Mr. Locke, has been appointed Acting Dewan and another European, Mr. Gover, Chief Judge of the State? If so, then Cochin truly occupies a singular position. In no other Native State, we believe, is to be found the spectacle of a European Dewan and a European Chief Judge. We fancy here we can plainly detect the hand of the Resident. The Foreign Office to the rescue!

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

2479. The following appears in the *Bengalee* of the 30th September:—

A tale of dire distress.

We earnestly desire to draw the serious attention of the authorities to the dire distress prevailing in about 200 villages—

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
28th Sept. 1901.

INDIAN MIRROR,
29th Sept. 1901.

BENGALÉE,
30th Sept. 1901.

BENGALÉE,
26th Sept. 1901.

BENGALÉE,
30th Sept. 1901.

Amta, Singti, Dukhin Rampur, Sitapore, Rampore, Haral, Radhanagore, &c., &c., in the Howrah district, due to the inundation of the Damodar on the 5th September last. We are told that a large number of men and cattle have been washed away, and the standing crops competely destroyed. Our further information is that in several of these villages people have been literally going without food; and the most capable of them have been eking out a precarious existence by a casual meal on boiled herbs and tamarind leaves. The tale of woe is much too harrowing to be treated with indifference; and we doubt not, the attention of the authorities has only to be drawn before speedy relief measures are adopted. The cant of the staying power of the people should for a moment be overlooked, and the willing hand of succour and relief extended to them before they can again find their feet.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
24th Sept. 1901.

2480. The *Indian Empire* wishes to know if the Kayasthas as a community are in the black list of the officials in the North-Western Provinces. It points to the reference "Kayastha satellites," made to them by the Joint-

Kayasthas in the North-Western Provinces.

Magistrate in the *Patrika* defamation case, "in which case it is clear from the judgment that the defence was discarded, mainly because the witnesses were Kayasthas," and next to the letter of the District Magistrate of Benares to the Principal of a local College, in which the former asked for candidates for apprenticeships in his office, one of the qualities for which appointments was stated to be that the candidates must not belong to the Kayastha caste.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
24th Sept. 1901.

2481. To the *Indian Empire* the real rulers of India are not the provincial Governors who are impersonal beings, unseen by the masses, but the police and the magistracy with

The real rulers of India.

both of whom the people are brought into contact; and in their eyes it is the character of the magistracy that determines the character of the Government. Such being the position of Indian Magistrates, it behoves them to act with extreme caution in order to maintain the prestige of the Government, but as a matter of fact they are often striplings, puffed up with a sense of their own importance and shorn of all sympathy for the people who are made to feel their power.

INDIAN MIRROR,
25th Sept. 1901.

2482. The *Indian Mirror* is convinced that for the Archæological Department, which the Viceroy is about to revive, no more efficient man than Dr. Chattopadhyaya could be found, a short sketch of whose career it publishes.

Professor Nishikant Chattopadhyaya, PH. D.

He would also be the fittest man to be in charge of the Imperial Library into which the Calcutta Public Library is to be converted.

STANDARD,
26th Sept. 1901.

2483. The proposal to which the *Standard* has given publicity has, in the opinion of the *Bengalee*, much to recommend it. The coronation of the Emperor in India will be a tangible recognition of the fact that India is really,

The proposed Coronation of the Emperor in Delhi.

and not merely nominally, the brightest jewel in the Imperial diadem of Great Britain. The visit of the Sovereign to India will also bring him into personal contact with those of the Feudatory Princes who are prevented by various considerations from visiting Europe.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
26th Sept. 1901.

2484. The following paragraph is reproduced *verbatim* from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—

Ibid.

Is it possible that the Emperor is coming here to be crowned at Delhi? If Lord Beaconsfield were living, there is no doubt of it that he would have carried out the idea. Lord Salisbury is a statesman trained by Lord Beaconsfield, and so it is just possible that the rumour is based upon some truth. What a beautiful and thrilling idea! How mightily it will move India! Will not then India go mad with the feelings of loyalty? The Indians have never been given an opportunity of having a look at their Sovereign, and that being so, the presence of the Emperor will throw the people into an ecstasy of delight. It will cause some expense, but that is nothing compared with the results that are to be expected by this capital move. Possibly the idea is the Emperor's own. His illustrious mother, when she heard that Ireland was getting disaffected, ran to that country to disarm the discontent. The Emperor must have heard that there is deep discontent in India, and his

Majesty following the policy of his illustrious mother is anxious to remove it by a similar move. Yes, let His Majesty come, and we shall give him such a reception as will shame and annihilate those suspicious and short-sighted politicians who disarmed the people. What we fear is that statesmen like Sir H. Fowler and others will oppose His Majesty's coming here. They do not venture to put the Emperor and his people face to face.

Emigration a means of salvation.

2485. In the course of an article on the Irish emigration to America which Mr. Michael Davitt so strongly denounces, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
26th Sept. 1901.

observes:—

"If the Indians had a place to which to emigrate they could have, in this manner, grown in number and perhaps in influence. Why cannot the Maharaja of Darbhanga or, say, Maharaja Surja Kanta establish a colony of Hindus in British Africa? Dumraon is doing something like this in Burma, but there is no self-government in that country. In British Africa there is self-government. If a colony is once established, it would flourish immensely."

2486. The following paragraph appears in the *Indian Mirror*:—

Indian students in Japan.

A Muhammadan student from Japan, in the course of a letter to a vernacular paper of Amritsar, says that no student should go to Japan, without a certificate from the District Magistrate which is to be countersigned by the British Consul at Japan. The British Government have intimated to the Japanese Government that no Indian subject of His Majesty should be admitted to any Japanese University or Art School without the British Government being duly informed of the fact. Now, what does all this mean? And if this senseless rule is enforced in the case of Japan, why should it not be extended to Germany and America as well, where also some of our young men proceed for education? It is monstrous that the Government of India should not afford us the same educational facilities as we obtain in Japan, and at the same time impose restrictions on those who proceed to that country with the object of profiting by those facilities.

INDIAN MIRROR,
26th Sept. 1901.

2487. In a leader on the subject of the growing indebtedness of all classes of people in India, the *Indian Mirror*

The money-lenders.

remarks that it behoves the Government to take such steps as will lessen the growing mass of poverty and indebtedness among the people. There is no law at present against usury, and so the money-lender enjoys perfect freedom in fleecing his victims. It is gratifying to the writer that the proposed establishment of agricultural banks will go a long way to remove their evil influence upon the cultivating classes. But he would be glad to see a revival of the measure which was introduced into the Supreme Council five or six years ago, to regulate the award of interest in suits for simple money debts and mortgage debts, as he cannot urge too strongly the importance of drastic legislation in this matter.

INDIAN MIRROR,
28th Sept. 1901.

2488. Referring to the report that Lord Salisbury intends retiring from the cares of State, after the coronation, the *Bengalee*

Retirement of Lord Salisbury.

remarks that, however seriously his Lordship's retirement would affect the English people, it does not and cannot evoke any sentiment of genuine regret in the Indian mind.

"We Indians," it goes on to say, "have been no gainers—rather we have been losers—during Lord Salisbury's Ministry. A reactionary and retrograde policy has guided the spirit of Anglo-Indian rulers, and repression rather than expansion—restraint rather than liberty—have been the order of the day. Sedulous attempts have been made in every department of the Indian administration and in the policy of British Indian rule to put back the hands of the clock and to stem the tide of progress. The Indian has nothing to be grateful for to his Lordship."

BENGALÉE,
29th Sept. 1901.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 5th October 1901.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

